

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGT INTEREST IN ETUC

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING INTERVIEW WITH CGT SECRETARY RENE DUHAMEL, UK LABOR COUNSELOR CONFIRMED CGT'S INTEREST IN AND TERMS FOR ENTRY INTO ETUC. CGT REPORT-EDLY MIFFED BY LACK OF COORDINATED RESPONSE TO ITS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN ETUC, ASSUMES SEGUY'S LETTER TO FEATHER (A-107) NOT CIRCULATED TO ETUC MEMBERS. CGT VIEWS ASKANCE CGIL EAGERNESS TO DOWNGRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH WFTU, A CONNECTION HIGHLY VALUED BY CGT. END SUM.

2. IN THE COURSE OF ONE OF HIS PERIODIC CALLS ON CGT OFFICIALS, THE UK LABOR COUNSELOR ON 13 FEBRUARY WAS TOLD BY NON-COMMUNIST CGT SECRETARY RENE EUHAMEL THAT CGT IS INDEED KEENLY INTERESTED IN JOINING ETUC. DUHAMEL
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EXPLAINED THAT FORMAL APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION WILL BE

SUBMITTED AS SOON AS CGT HAS BEEN ASSURED OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: (A) APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED, (B) CGT VIEWS WILL BE REFLECTED, EVEN IF AS A MINORITY POSITION, IN ETUC PUBLICATIONS, AND (C) CGT WILL BE REPRESENTED IN ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OTHER SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

3. DUHAMEL COMMENTED WITH SOME IRONY ON THE FACT THAT WHEN CGT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE RECENT EAST-WEST GENEVA CONFERENCE INQUIRED FROM ETUC AFFILIATES ABOUT ETUC REACTION TO CGT INTEREST IN JOINING THEIR ORGANIZATION, THE RESPONSE WAS ONE OF UTTER CONFUSION. (COMMENT: DUHAMEL WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO THE SEGUY LETTER TO FEATHER, ETUC PRESIDENT, WHICH WAS QUOTED IN A-107. IT APPEARS FROM DUHAMEL'S STORY THAT SEGUY'S LETTER HAD NOT BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE ETUC AFFILIATES AND THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION AMONG THEM ABOUT WHAT RESPONSE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO IT.)

4. DUHAMEL MADE SOME DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT (GIL (ITALY). HE REFERRED TO THE WFTU CONGRESS IN VARNA AND QUESTIONED THE CGIL CONTENTION THAT A CGIL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN WFTU WAS NECESSARY FOR THE PROMOTION OF LABOR UNITY IN ITALY. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, DUHAMEL'S POINT WAS THAT CGIL WAS ABANDONING WFTU WITHOUT A VERY GOOD REASON FOR DOING SO.

5. UK LABOR COUNSELOR FOUND DUHAMEL FORTHCOMING AND RELAXED. AS IN THE PAST, HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY MAKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM. WHEN HE EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO MEET WITH SEGUY, DUHAMEL REFERRED HIM TO SEGUY'S SECRETARIAT, AND SPECIFICALLY TO HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LOME. SOURCE SAID THAT ON THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS HE HAS PHONED LOME BUT HAS BEEN PUT OFF ON THE PRETEXT THAT SEGUY'S SCHEDULE WAS FULL. SOURCE INTENDS TO TRY AGAIN.

6. COMMENT: IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE DUHAMEL'S REMARKS ABOUT CGIL, ONE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND WFTU'S SPECIAL IMPORTANCE FOR CGT OFFICIALS, BOTH COMMUNIST AND NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNIST. CGT FEELS THAT IT HOLDS A PRIVILEGED POSITION WITHIN WFTU WHICH REFLECTS ON CGT'S ROLE ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND ENHANCES ITS INFLUENCE WITHIN WFTU ITSELF. THE WFTU SECRETARY GENERAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FRENCHMAN; FRENCH IS THE WFTU WORKING LANGUAGE; AND A LARGE NUMBER OF WFTU STAFF ARE FRENCH. AS ONE OBSERVER PUT IT "SEGUY AND NOT SHELEPIN (USSR "LABOR" LEADER) IS GENSOUS' (WFTU SEC. GEN.) REAL BOSS". THIS

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH WFTU CONTRIBUTES TO AN EXPLAN-
ATION OF THE CGT OPPOSITION IN THE VARNA CONGRESS TO THE
CGIL PROPOSAL REGARDING ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (A-747).
IRWIN

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